

It's unfortunate for consumers that the Federal government elects to control free enterprise. Consumers who subscribe to satellite radio have elected to do so because satellite radio offers something that public radio does not offer. Consumers are willing to pay for that benefit, even though public radio is purportedly "free".

For the Federal government to step in to artificially protect the public radio market is inappropriate. Public radio should have the ability (and obligation) to compete with satellite radio in the marketplace without Federal support and intervention. If public radio wins consumer confidence, they will survive; if they fail they should suffer the consequences without the Federal government creating an artificial marketplace through restrictions and limitations imposed on satellite broadcasting.

Beside that point, public radio is really not providing a "public" service when broadcasting local traffic and weather; public radio is really a business enterprise in search for a profit. Why would the Federal government wish to intervene to decide which business enterprise (public radio or satellite radio) should have an advantage in the public marketplace?

I recommend that the Federal government allow satellite radio to broadcast local traffic and weather without governmental restrictions or limitations. Although my following comment is unrelated to my preceding message, I subscribe to satellite radio for reasons unrelated to local traffic and weather broadcasts. I actually listen to local public broadcast stations for those services, because public radio in my opinion does a better job at that type of broadcasting. But, I still remain staunch in my opinion that each consumer should be able to make that decision without Federal government intervention.